

# Viking Saga

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

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ISSUE 5



Chapman School calls patrons to action.  
PHOTO BY CELESTE THOMPSON

## Chapman School Closed by District

BY EFFY WIDDIFIELD

In the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year, a series of public meetings were held in all schools across the Northwest District. These meetings evaluated the financial and physical structure of schools, while presenting attendees with several plans to change the district so it could run closer to full capacity; this can provide better programs for students and less financial strain on local taxpayers.

After all public meetings were held, a survey was sent out so parents would be able to provide input on which option they thought was best. A board meeting was held before district elections to decide which path the district would follow. By far, the least popular options were those involving a conversion of the high school into a 6-12 or 8-12 building. The board agreed with parents that the best choice would be to keep Northwest High School as-is, create a "true" middle school that holds grades 6-8 with an existing building, and cut back to two K-5 schools. This meant that one school would ultimately be forced to close.

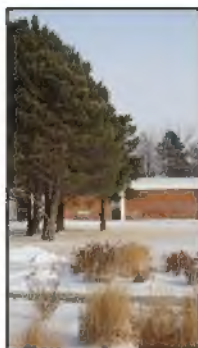
"Why Chapman?" was the one question that kept popping up. The school board needed a way to save money, and because of Chapman's small size, it had a high cost-student ratio.

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# New year resolutions: Yes or no?

BY LACIE NELSON



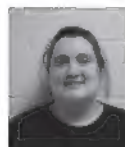
"New year, new me." We've all heard the [in]famous January 1st epitaph. As 2017 rolls in like rain in the Sahara [seriously, 2016 was a bad year for all of us], it brings with it a few changes. Donald Trump is president, Apple is releasing a new iPhone, and people will inevitably assume that the coming of a new year means they should magically change their entire lives in one fell swoop.

Well, that assumption isn't always healthy. Many people set goals for themselves at the start of a new year, and some of them are more realistic than others. But aside from that, why do we assume that a new year is the perfect time to do all the things we want to? People always make such a big deal out of new year resolutions that we tend to forget all the other great times of the year that we can use to change ourselves. We don't have to limit ourselves to once a year. That's actually perfectionist thinking. Perfectionists have an all-or-nothing mentality and often get nothing accomplished because they won't do it if it's not perfect. This pattern of behavior manifests itself into our new year resolutions. That being the case, if people get off track or fail at their new year resolutions, it wouldn't be unexpected or uncommon to just give up. Rather than getting right back on track [because change is a process], it's a common theme to just say "oh, well that failed, I guess I'll try again next year."

Another reason why new year resolutions are far from the best way to improve yourself is that they lend themselves to the assumption that people should try to drastically change something in their lives all at once. It's usually much healthier to make small changes over a longer period of time to eventually reach a goal. Change is more about developing healthy habits than anything. One example is weight loss. This is probably the most common [and oldest] new year resolution in the book. Experts such as Katherine Tallmadge, RD, Michael Dansinger, MD, and Dawn Jackson Blatner, RD all agree that a slower, steadier build of healthy habits is a great way to lose weight. So, surprise, cutting down to 500 calories and exercising for 5 hours a day when you're accustomed to eating 2,500 calories and exercising for 0 hours a day may not be the best idea. Most goals work the same way: Making one giant change rather than a steady build of good habits is probably not a good idea. That being the case, new year resolutions are a bad habit.

If you want to make a change in your life for the better, go for it. But just remember that you can make that decision one idle day in the middle of August. You will change throughout your entire life, but not every change has to be some immediate, drastic change. Make small, constant changes. The little things that change us make us who we are.

BY KRISTAL O'BRIEN



Everyone should have a New Year's resolution. The only bad thing that can come from a goal of yours, is to let yourself down and not meet it. Sure you can make goals whenever you want, but I think the new year is a good beginning point.

A big part of making a New Year's resolution is being able to be mentally ready. It doesn't matter what time of year you make the goal if you are not mentally ready to achieve your goal.

If you make a New year's resolution, don't put it off because you have plenty of time. You are always going to have to push yourself to get the outcome you want. At the beginning of the year, make sure you really prepare yourself.

Lots of people like to keep track of how long it takes them to hit their goal. Because of this, I feel like it's easier to keep track of how many months have passed by starting fresh in a new year, letting go of the last year, and focusing on what you have to do now.

On December 30th, 2016 Kelly Burnett published an article telling about her life struggles and how she overcame them. She gives out many amazing tips on how to follow through with your goal. If you start at the beginning of the year, there are many occasions when you get together with family and celebrate holidays. That's a great time to brag about the "new you".

"Work with yourself, not against yourself," Burnett said.

In other words, she is saying: Go at your own pace. You are not going to make your goal on the first day of the year! But don't let that stop you from making a goal, and a new year is a great time for a fresh start to make these goals. You can grow from it, and expand on your skills.

## VIKING SAGA

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VikingMedia



## Both sides speak out on Chapman's situation

"This was a board of education decision, so each board member probably had [different] reasoning that went into their decision. However, I feel a lot of the decision was based on location. Currently over half of the students who are in the Chapman attendance area are going to schools other than Chapman. I think the board saw that a greater number of students were choosing to leave the Chapman area than any of the other schools, and saw this as an indicator that it was in the least desirable location," Northwest superintendent Matthew Fisher said.

Lowering costs for the district was a major factor in the decision.

"By closing Chapman School, the Northwest District will save an estimated \$1.00 to \$1.25 million dollars. Most of the expense of any school building is the staff. We have 26 people working every day to help educate kids, from full-time teachers and administrators to part-time cooks and custodians. The DLR group that led all of the community meetings pointed out that Chapman School was the most expensive in the District to operate. The reason why was never addressed. Staff is the biggest expense; however, we have four very high-needs students that each receive a one-on-one para which [costs] close to \$100,000 after salaries and benefits are paid. That dollar amount is what began the whole process as Northwest patrons want to have less property taxes. We all do," Chapman principal Jeffrey Ellsworth said.

Chapman has undergone many recent renovations to the point of having the best gym facilities and it is up to many physical disabilities building codes. If the district were to close Chapman completely, valuable infrastructure would be lost.

The most prevalent reason why creating a true middle school was prioritized is because Northwest has several "feeder schools", each holding the potential to provide students with slightly different educational backgrounds.

"By having all of our middle school students together in one building, we would see a number of benefits. The school would be a size that would require at least a couple of teachers in each of the core subject areas. Consequently, teachers would be able to teach in a specific area rather than being stretched between multiple areas. This would allow teachers to be

better prepared and deliver better lessons in all areas. With the students all in the same building it would be feasible to offer elective classes such as art, business, family and consumer science, agriculture, and industrial tech. The transition to high school would be much easier if students were making that move together with 80 other students they knew and had built friendships with," Fisher said.

Whatever reasons were behind the decision, the board did not consult those at Chapman before voting.

"The School Board did not ask anything from the staff or students. You could argue that the community meetings were the opportunity to speak out, but no plan had been decided upon at the outcome of the five meetings. The only other input was during the open-mike session at the school board meeting prior to their decision. Chapman School had no leverage to work with," Ellsworth said.

Many thought the meeting was just going to be a way to talk about which option was best, and were shocked to hear the board was closing a school so soon.

"We didn't even think they were going to vote, it was just going to be a discussion. Then it was 'oh well, we're going to close your school,'" Amy Lynch, mother of two boys who graduated through Northwest and a daughter who is currently at Chapman, said.

Patrons of Chapman feel strongly about the change and are protesting by sending letters to the board.

"[Staff and students have reacted] with uncertainty. Everyone is worried about the future and where they will be next year. Many tears have been shed and continue to be shed. Many letters have been written to the School board," Ellsworth continued.

A community group from Chapman attended a board meeting held on January 9 with intentions of swaying the board. With the newly-elected members Mike Shafer and Bret Mader, the meeting could have possibly repealed the decision to close Chapman school; however, the outcome was 3-3 once again.

Even if the decision is not repealed, there is a chance that Chapman will continue in spirit.

"We are hoping to be able to re-purpose the Chapman building. Because the gyms in our other facilities are not as good as the Chapman gym we are probably looking to continue using the gym there. We are

also hoping to possibly partner with some area schools to create some special service programs which might be housed in the Chapman facility. The plan is to also work with the Chapman community to allow for various uses the community might identify," Fisher said.

As the buildings become condensed, some teachers employed by the Northwest District -- especially newer teachers or those with fewer endorsements or certifications -- are feeling the dread of potential layoffs.

"Some staff will be retained in other buildings as some of those staff members are let go through the RIF (Reduction In Force) process. The closing of the school means loss of jobs for people that do not have tenure in certain areas, or if someone has seniority in an area, a teacher may be lost," Ellsworth said.

Teachers are faced with the hard task of explaining to students why Chapman is closing as well.

***"Everyone is worried about the future and where they will be next year. Many tears have been shed and continue to be shed." -Jeffrey Ellsworth***

"I am working hard to make this year a really good one for the students [because] they are the ones

who have been affected the most. They feel it's their fault and don't know or understand the politics," Scott Gamblin, a third grade teacher at Chapman, said.

Families are also feeling distress -- parents have to explain to their children why they might not see their friends next year while finding a new school that will ensure the best education for their children while remaining close to home.

"We're on the other side of Chapman, and 1-R is 17 miles down the road. It's the closest. Once my daughter gets into activities, transportation will be a problem. [My daughter] is ten, so she heard about it at school and there was lots of crying. [I take a couple of her friends from activities home after school and they were just begging me not to separate them]," Lynch continued.

As the new year progresses, all who were part of the Chapman community look for answers.

"Nobody knows where they will be next year from the students to the staff. Many tears were shed when I told the Chapman students the news the day after the school board decision. There are so many questions that everyone has and no answers to give them, yet," Ellsworth said.



## WHAT STUDENTS DO ON THEIR SNOW DAYS:



**Whitney Wiese**  
**Sophomore**

I go hang out with friends if roads aren't bad or just sit at home and relax.



**Marissa Kaminski**  
**Sophomore**

I usually get my life back together by organizing my room, school bags, washing all of my athletic shoes and whatever else the sports require. I also bake treats, workout, and give the house a major cleaning.



**Jarod Fox**  
**Sophomore**

I either hang with my friends or stay home and watch Netflix.

# Northwest administration uses several factors to decide snow days

By KATIE SMALLWOOD

With the new year comes the possibility of bad weather. A thought that's on most students' minds is "Will we get a snow day?" Superintendent Matthew Fisher is the man who determines when to have a snow day or not. Fisher, along with superintendents of other schools, monitors the weather and determines the safety of driving conditions.

"This time of year I stay very in tune with what is taking place on the weather scene. If a storm looks to be coming in, then I will consult with other superintendents in the area and see what people are thinking. I will get out and drive roads both in the country and in town to see if people can get to school. So long as I feel that most people can safely get to school, we will have school," Fisher said.

In Nebraska, the weather seems to have a mind of its own. Determining how many snow days to set aside is also one of

Fisher's responsibilities.

"Two [snow days] gives us a little cushion. Then we know if we go beyond that, we can make up days to meet the requirements. Last year, we ended up taking off the day after Easter to make up for using too many days when we had the big snow storm in February," Fisher said.

While two snow days seems like enough, some of those days are used for other purposes.

"We typically have two extra days built into our calendar. Normally these are for snow days, but we have used them to let school out for state tournaments before," Fisher said.

When the school year ends without Northwest using their snow days, some students question what Northwest does with the extra days.

"We get to have extra days of school and the students get to become extra smart," Fisher said.



**Casey Adams**  
**Senior**

I sleep, watch movies, drink hot cocoa by a fireplace, and spend time with my family.



**Jeff Sokol**  
**Senior**

I mainly watch YouTube or movies. Maybe go over some homework and if I can, go out with friends.



# The Tide has been rolled

BY BRENDEN HOLLING



Miracles do exist. The Clemson Tigers have beat the all mighty Alabama Crimson Tide to win the 2017 College Football Playoff. Although Alabama was supposed to win by 7 points according to the Las Vegas odds, Clemson was considered a big underdog against the Tide. It seemed almost impossible for the Tigers to defeat what some considered "The Best College Football Team of All-Time." Led by junior quarterback Deshaun Watson, Clemson engineered a fourth quarter comeback to win the title.

The build-up to the game was insane. That's all any of the ESPN networks would talk about. It was all about the rematch and whether or not Clemson would get redemption or if Alabama would cruise to another victory. But for the most part, most ESPN analysts thought Alabama would win to cap off another undefeated season and their fifth championship in eight years. ESPN basically advertised it as the game of the century because it was on every single ESPN channel and there was a different angle on each channel.

For the first half, the game was very slow and boring. Alabama running back Bo Scarbrough ran for a couple long touchdowns in the half. Clemson had one good drive and scored a touchdown off of it. I contemplated going to bed many times because it looked like another defensive Alabama victory. However, I was dedicated enough to actually make it through the rest of the game and I am glad that I did.

The third quarter was much more of the same. Clemson had another nice drive and scored and Alabama hit another big touchdown so the score going into the fourth quarter was 24 to 14 with Alabama in the lead. That's when the Tigers were unleashed. Clemson's offense caught fire like they usually do -- at the very right time. Watson led the Tigers on two touchdown drives to put them in the lead 28-24. Alabama had to respond somehow, and they had to do it without their best offensive player, Scarbrough, who had a leg injury. True

freshman quarterback Jalen Hurts found the magic to run it in for the touchdown with just under two minutes left. I got the terrible feeling that that took the life out of Clemson and Alabama had secured the victory. I was dead wrong. Watson again, without any nerves, led the Tigers to inside the 20-yard line with under 30 seconds to go. A catch by Clemson's tight end, Jordan Leggett, and a defensive pass interference penalty put Clemson on the two yard line with six seconds to go, only needing a field goal to send it into overtime. Clemson had time for one more play and it worked to perfection. Watson found wide receiver Hunter Renfroe wide open in the corner of the endzone to finish off the Crimson Tide, 35-31. It was one of the most dramatic endings to any national championship game ever, and I thought it was the best since Vince Young led Texas to beat Southern California in a thrilling fashion. Clemson's party was on and tons of confetti were falling. Watson fittingly won MVP for the game and immediately announced he was entering the NFL draft. It was a storybook ending for the quarterback's collegiate career.

There were some things that could be fixed about the championship game itself. It was held in Tampa, Florida and the game started at 8:15 pm. The game didn't get over until midnight. It needs to be moved up a couple hours earlier so people don't fall asleep during the game and miss out on the good stuff. I've heard plenty of people saying they wish they could've watched it live, but missed out because they had to go sleep to wake up for an early morning job. Another option that the game organizers could do is move it to a Friday or Saturday. Most people don't have to get up early on Saturdays and Sundays. I think this could bump up their ratings and have more fans not missing out.

Overall, this was a great game. It couldn't have gotten any better since these two teams are definitely the best teams in college football. Clemson had their sights set on getting revenge against Alabama since last year and they got what they wanted. I wish all championship games could have been like this one and I hope there is more to come between Alabama and Clemson because it is turning into a great rivalry.

WHAT TEAM  
DID NORTHWEST  
STUDENTS ROOT  
FOR?



43%



18%



(NEITHER)  
39%

\*124 responses

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## Millennials wasting whole weekends on

2017 | 5min | G BY LACIE NELSON 1 story | HD

In today's fast-paced society, waiting is a rare concept. We got tired of waiting for food, so we made it fast. We got tired of waiting through lengthy speeches or press conferences, so we elected a man who only speaks in 140 characters or less. And we also got tired of waiting for TV, so we started bingeing it. Though, if you think about it, this seems backwards. We don't have the patience to call someone on the phone or do our math homework, but we have the patience to sit for hours, completely engrossed in the lives of other people and fictional characters? But why? Why has our society said "no" to waiting a week for a new episode of a favorite show? Why are Netflix binges now the culturally accepted "bad habit?"

Turns out, binges aren't so bad, or at least not according to the bingers. A study done by Netflix in 2013 showed that 73% of binge watchers, viewed binge watching in a positive light. Because of the growth in popularity of this cultural phenomenon, Netflix has taken their own actions to ensure customers the best binge watching experience possible. With the customers' viewing habits in mind,

Netflix began to produce series are created for "multiscreen" viewers the product they want to watch in the evenings in sweatpants not an entire family sized bag of popcorn. People feel better about the

But, we still haven't analyzed the new trend. Is it truly because of the convenience? Researcher and cultural anthropologist says it's quite the opposite. In today's world, we are short on time and conducted studies have reduced to 140 characters or less. The way storytelling used to be, it's not watching for that matter, it's about the daily lives of Americans. Most shows are shown in order to slow their pace down with the lives and drama of the characters.

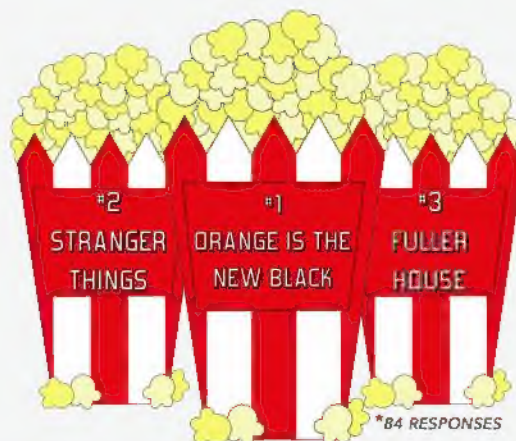
So, is binge-watching a bad habit? Watching the byproduct of binge watching should get out of their pants and be the most part. Binge-watching is a bad habit -- like all good

Because you read "Millennials

Five things  
 you should  
 know about

Netflix

By Celeste Thompson







VikingSaga ▾

# Netflix?

Netflix original series. All of their original "multi-episodic viewing," in order to give their viewers what they're truly purchasing: Antisocial Saturday next to a bowl of Doritos [actually it was just a bowl of Doritos, but putting the Doritos in a bowl makes it better for themselves].

answered why America is obsessed with this binge watching. Are we too impatient to wait? Actually, no. Anthropologist Grant McCracken discovered that in today's society, brevity is key--conversations are often conducted through text message, and stories are often told in short bursts. This creates a longing in people for more content to be. Netflix, and all other forms of binge watching, offer an escape from the busy, fast-paced world. Many take refuge in entire seasons of a TV show, living down a little, and become enthralled by the lives of other people.

Is the ruin of American society? Is binge watching the sign of a society of lazy, entitled millennials who are stuck in their parents' basements and find a job? Not for me. Binge watching isn't *entirely* unhealthy... Just do it in moderation. Things in life.



*Image from Pixabay*

## Millennials wasting whole weekends on Netflix:

- Many people have noticed Netflix takes certain TV series or movies off the site while adding some in the process. According to an article written by Alisha Grauso, Netflix has contracts with many production companies, and each contract has a time frame. When that contract ends, the movies and TV shows are removed from the site and are no longer streamable.
- Netflix was not always a streaming website -- originally, DVD rentals were their only service. A totally separate website allows you to rent movies and have them delivered by mail with free shipping. When you are done, you just mail it back.
- Netflix's original series have won many awards and they plan to make more in the future. This past year, Netflix released 126 original series.
- There are over 75 million people in the world binge watching and streaming TV series and movies.
- Netflix has a new feature on their mobile app that allows you to download movies and episodes for offline viewing. Only select series and movies have a download option, but those titles generally had good reception after release.



Junior class sponsor Kim Coates, and officers Makenzie Hageman, Taylor Hageman, and Celeste Thompson meet to discuss prom ideas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA KORTE

Prom: most girls can't wait for the night they get to have a glitzed up gown, perfectly curled hair, and makeup that reflects at the tilt of the head. It's the one day a year some girls get to be the princess they see themselves as.

But some wonder who is behind the stringed lighting and the streamers? Junior class sponsors Mike Saddler and Kim Coates are the teachers responsible for that magical night.

Junior class sponsors are the teachers who collect money for, plan, and keep track of things like prom. They are the people who make students ask their parents to take magazine subscriptions to work and sell them. They take time out of their lives to stress over prom and other duties so students can sit back and enjoy the ride.

April is typically the most hectic time for a class sponsor.

"More time is required during the spring because the junior class hosts prom. During this time I meet with Mrs. Coates to plan."

Being a class sponsor is often something

## Junior class sponsors organize prom

BY PAIGE SHUBERT

that just comes with the job description.

"I was asked during the interview [to teach at Northwest] if I would be interested in being a junior class sponsor as part of my duties," Saddler said.

Saddler and Coates are both junior class sponsors but have very different responsibilities. Saddler keeps track of junior fees, organising a fundraiser, and the distribution of prom tickets. Coates, on the other hand, deals more with organizing prom itself. Coates takes responsibility with Northwest's prom committee to organize and get supplies for decorating.

The Friday before prom Saddler, Coates, and the committee meet in the new gym and get it ready for the juniors and seniors to enjoy that Saturday.

Planning prom has many working parts, and involves a lot of time and organization. Also, with post-prom planning at the same time, it can be confusing for some students.

"A challenging part of being a junior class sponsor is keeping juniors and parents informed on the difference between junior class dues and post prom dues. Post-prom dues are for the activities after prom; junior class dues must be paid by all juniors. Once the juniors have paid their junior class dues, they receive their prom tickets for free," Saddler said.



# Northwest National Honor Society helps students succeed

By EMILY BROADWELL

Scholarship, service, character, and leadership are the four pillars that National Honor Society (NHS) strives to achieve and perform. Northwest has prided itself on giving back to the community, and NHS is just one of the ways Northwest allows students to reach out.

NHS is responsible for hosting many projects in the Grand Island community.

"This year we have done a hunger banquet, toy drive, and several blood drives. This semester, we will be helping with Race for GRACE, several more blood drives, and a few other projects," junior NHS member Abigail Campbell said.

What is National Honor Society and what

do they do? Many students are unsure.

"National Honor Society is an organization that recognizes the accomplishments of students in academics, community, and school participation," NHS director Kenzie Mollring said.

Students who are selected to join NHS are those who can become a role model and a representative for Northwest. The selection process is not the easiest when Northwest students are full of promise and potential.

NHS is composed of juniors and seniors picked the year before. To be a member, students first must have a GPA of at least 3.8. A list of the eligible students is given to the teachers so they can pick students by their classroom performance, attitude, and character. If students receive enough recommendations, they will be given a sheet

to fill out with their school activities and they need to turn in a written paper. That written paper will then be scored by a rubric to determine future NHS members. Applicants that receive enough points through each of the parts of the process will make the cut and be invited to induction. Members of NHS not only join an honorary society, but a service organization as well.

"It has brought me new opportunities to get involved with Northwest and our community in ways I probably couldn't have done on my own. We can sign up for different committees and events but overall we're a team," senior NHS member Sophia Mittelstaedt said.

Many of the students who are a part of the program have had very positive experiences, and will carry what they have learned from the organization into the future.

BY CHERIE THOMPSON

FEBRUARY HOROSCOPES

## CAPRICORN

22 DECEMBER - 20 JANUARY

*There will be a lot of sacrificing and cutbacks for you this month. Capricorn. You will manage your money wisely and will not allow yourself to come up short at the end of the month.*

## AQUARIUS

21 JANUARY - 19 FEBRUARY

*This month is full of calmness and serenity. You will be way more organized and productive than usual, and you will organize your thoughts and solve problems in better ways.*

## PISCES

20 FEBRUARY - 20 MARCH

*Everything will go just as planned for you this month. Projects you have started will end on a good note and you will start a new one.*

## ARIES

21 MARCH - 19 APRIL

*Paranoia will seep its way through you a lot this month. Small things will linger in your mind and insecurity strikes you hard. You will also encounter a lot of misunderstandings with people close to you.*

## TAURUS

20 APRIL - 20 MAY

*You will go outside your comfort zone and stir up everyone's usual way of doing something. Beware: someone will try and take advantage of you this month, causing you to cut all ties with them.*

## GEMINI

21 MAY - 21 JUNE

*This month you will start a new project that you're very passionate about. This project will involve you being very social and amicable. You also will be a beacon of advice for others going through tough times.*

## CANCER

22 JUNE - 23 JULY

*This month, you will rethink and question some of your beliefs. This allows you to explore and experience new things: things you couldn't before. You will stay positive through this journey and have fun.*

## LEO

24 JULY - 23 AUGUST

*You will express your interests and dislikes to many people this month. Persuading others to share common interests will be one of your goals this month. However, you will come off a little too strong and might lose your temper.*

## VIRGO

24 AUGUST - 22 SEPTEMBER

*This month you will become more knowledgeable about political affairs. These political affairs might have a direct impact on how you live or survive.*

## LIBRA

23 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

*It will be a busy month for you, dear Libra. You will need to keep track of your thoughts and write them down in a diary. Your business will cause you to travel to many places.*

## SCORPIO

23 OCTOBER - 22 NOVEMBER

*You will be full of many emotions this month. Jealousy, envy, and pride will invade your life and you might act upon those feelings in a negative way. Your confidence and high self-esteem this month will lead to generosity.*

## SAGITTARIUS

23 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER

*Your energy this month will be very abundant. You will be very busy and will have no time for slacking off. You might want to stay away from teamwork in fear of failure.*

# Review: *Rogue One* delivers the secret plans, but that's about it

BY EMILY BROADWELL

*"I am one with the Force, and the Force is with me. I am one with the Force, and the Force is with me."*

If you are a *Star Wars* fanatic, you might have already seen the new movie, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, which premiered December 16th. The premise of the movie revolves around one line leading into *A New Hope*, the fourth *Star Wars* movie. A team of rebels band together with the help of Jyn Erso, the daughter of an Imperial officer, to steal the plans of the Death Star. This is not without sacrifice. Somehow, I managed saving myself from any trailers so I would go into the movie theater totally blind and without bias.

I was filled with hype and excitement because *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* was amazing and I was expecting a sequel; initially, I was disappointed. After getting over the initial shock I focused on the actual story. In my opinion, the plot was long winded and couldn't keep my attention throughout the entire movie. Half the time I wasn't sure of where the characters were because the setting was vaguely explained or weakly established. However, I did enjoy the humorous characters that acted as a comic relief to the turmoil of the mission. The real action of the movie came towards the end when the rebels fought directly against the Empire to obtain the plans. I was hooked in the last quarter of the movie and felt that the rest was just a long prologue no one wanted to read. I will not give specifics to the ending, but it emotionally devastated me.

In my opinion, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* wasn't great, but it wasn't trash. On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate it as a 6. I probably wouldn't pay to watch it again, but if it came on TV, I would be down. May Episode VIII save me from the cliff this prequel left me hanging from.



**Keaton  
Largent  
Freshman**

I thought it was interesting, but it wasn't great though. I think they could have chosen a different approach to the series. But, what's done is done and it wasn't half bad.



**Ashley  
Blimling  
Sophomore**

*Rogue One* was better than *The Force Awakens*. It had lots of humor and was action-packed. It was pretty straightforward and didn't leave you wondering. It felt like they were trying too hard to incorporate romance, but other than that, I loved the whole movie.



**Topher Rosenlund  
Senior**

I liked how it connected straight into the beginning of *A New Hope*. You could probably watch the movies back to back as if it was one movie. It transitions really well.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By BRENDEN HOLLING

## COLEMAN COOPER

**Middle School:** Chief Moses Middle School (Washington)

**Activities:** Football, Basketball, 14 KG, FBLA, NHS, Student Council, One-Act, Musical.

**Plans after high school:** Attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a Business Student.

**Advice for underclassmen:** Be you. If you want to do something, work on making it a reality.



## JASON NGUYEN

**Middle School:** Westridge

**Activities:** Intermural Basketball, Soccer, Fishing.

**Plans after high school:** Attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an Architecture student.

**Advice for underclassmen:** Don't forget to brush your teeth.



## LAUREN GEBHARDT

**Middle School:** St. Paul (K-8)

**Activities:** Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Musical, 14 KG, Dood's Band, Worship Team Choir at Church.

**Plans after high school:** Attend college in Texas or Missouri to study youth ministry or music education.

**Advice for underclassmen:** Don't procrastinate and pay attention to the little things.



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# ICE STORM 2017

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